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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I've been following the Microsoft case since it's inception. Early on, I was cheering for Microsoft, but recent developments have caused me to change my mind. The new licensing requirements for Windows XP and the changes that have been made to MSN.COM to kick off Microsoft's new ".NET" initiative have left me cold.

On Windows XP licensing:

I have never installed Windows without having to reinstall it at some point in time. I also make frequent changes to my hardware as I try to keep up with technology. Windows XP, should I upgrade to it, would have me call MS Tech Support every time I did an install or made changes to my hardware and put me in the position of having to explain to an MS representative why I need to reinstall or reactivate the OS.

It is none of MS's business what hardware I install Windows on. They have no right to peek into my computer and see how their OS is being used. Just imagine the possibilities for Microsoft: They know what hardware I'm using and that puts them in a position to "suggest" that I add certain hardware to my system. It gives them an edge over the competition. Microsoft justifies their registration requirements by raising the software piracy banner and claiming that they are just trying to protect themselves. Microsoft is the richest corporation in the world! They can't be hurt too much by piracy.

On the new ".NET" initiative:

I've had a HotMail account for the last several months. I don't have one now, because MS broke their own licensing agreement and claimed I hadn't accessed my account recently and therefore had to reapply. (I hadn't accessed my account for one week and according the agreement I only had to access it once every 90 days.) To reactivate my account, I would have had to read and agree to a new 20 page licensing agreement that included this new ".NET" stuff. Microsoft is trying to force everyone on the WEB to use their new "Microsoft Wallet" and store all their personal information on MS servers. Microsoft servers have a long history of being hacked and I, for one, believe that if you put all your eggs in one basket and tell all the thieves where your basket is, you increase your odds of being ripped off.

In my opinion there is only one possible solution that would truly level Microsoft's playing field. The justice department must require Microsoft to publish all Windows programming hooks and the purpose of each hook. (I use the word HOOK as a synonym for program calls to the operating system.) This would allow other companies to create operating systems that were compatible with Windows and Microsoft would be forced to compete in the market solely on the merits of its OS. We would have a standard operating system template and competition: the best of both worlds.

What do you think computers would cost today if Advanced Micro Devices hadn't challenged Intel and forced performance up and prices down? We NEED competition in the OS workspace as well. It is the only reasonable solution.

Sincerely,

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